

Fulfill the Commitment: Appoint the Secretary

PRESS RELEASE

March 30, 2010

Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information (CCRI) strongly demands Government of Nepal for an immediate appointment of the secretary at National Information Commission (NIC).

NIC was constituted on June 6, 2008. Since its establishment, Nepal government failed to appoint its secretary for continuous 5 months. Finally, first secretary of the commission was appointed on October 26, 2008. He was transferred to the Ministry of Defense by the government on March 25, 2009. For more than six months the post remained vacant and the government appointed secretary on October 9, 2009.

At present, the commission is functioning without its secretary for third time. Its second secretary was transferred on January 6, 2010. Out of 22 months of its office, it has been functioning without secretary for more than half duration. It has directly made numerous impacts on the proper functioning of the commission. In addition, it also shows the reluctance of the government on serious issues like this, which has directly jeopardized regular and effective functioning of the Commission.

This situation has created additional impacts on anticipated immediate functioning of the Commission. Indeed, this situation is acting as a hindrance for the proper monitoring of the ongoing activities on Right to information and creating difficulties for its implementation. Rules regarding Right to Information, 2009 has empowered secretary with certain important powers and duties such as the execution of the decision and order made by the commission. Without secretary, the Commission seems to be facing problems in the execution of its orders.

Therefore, CCRI strongly expresses its dissatisfaction on government's unwillingness and demands for an immediate appointment of the secretary so that it functions regularly and effectively.

Editor's Note: CCRI is a registered non-partisan, non-political and non-profit-making NGO. It has been working for the promotion and protection of right to information in Nepal. It strives for transparency, good governance and monitors functions of the government for effective enforcement of Right to Information.

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(CCRI is registered with the District Administration Office, Kathmandu as a non-governmental organization)